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DRAFT DECISION

97/xx. Guidelines for improving the implementation of regional cooperation programmes

The Executive Board

1. Requests the Administrator to present to the Executive Board for its consideration and approval at the first regular session 1998, an implementation strategy paper for each individual regional cooperation programme; the implementation strategy papers should incorporate the following elements:

(a) The findings of the United Nations Development Programme evaluation entitled "Global, interregional and regional programmes: an evaluation of impact" (November 1996);

(b) A more detailed assessment of lessons learned from previous regional cooperation programmes and their integration into the programming and implementation of the next programmes;

(c) A narrow range of priorities and themes, within a programme-based approach, focusing on areas requiring regional cooperation;

(d) The identification of the role and comparative advantage of UNDP participation in initiatives for regional cooperation and its collaboration with relevant bodies of the United Nations system;

(e) Clear linkages between the thematic areas in regional programmes and global programmes and between the thematic areas and activities in regional programmes and priority programmes at the country level;

(f) A clear presentation of expected results, including identification of target groups and beneficiaries;

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(g) A clear linkage, using a logical framework, between programme objectives and available resources for implementation;

(h) An estimate of resource allocation among thematic areas and institutions;

2. Also requests that each implementation strategy paper contain a systematic strategy for monitoring and evaluation, including practical performance indicators and benchmarks, which will enable the Executive Board to assess the impact of regional cooperation programmes;

3. Emphasizes the need for clear, concise language in the presentation of the regional implementation strategy papers;

4. Also emphasizes the regional ownership of the regional programmes and the importance of regional execution, including by non-governmental organizations, think tanks, the private sector and other regional and national institutions;

5. Further emphasizes the need to utilize sustainable approaches in the design and implementation of thematic initiatives included in the regional cooperation programme;

6. Requests the Administrator to submit at the second regular session 1999, the mid-term reviews of all regional programmes approved in 1997;

7. Also requests the Administrator, based on the experience gained during the implementation of the present decision, to elaborate strategic guidelines for the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of regional programmes that will apply to all regions.

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